



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
March 23, 2005**

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**SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

**FIRST CONVICTION ARISING FROM NASHUA COCAINE RING
INVESTIGATION OF THE "LATINO CLUB"**

Re: United States v. Reinaldo "Ronnie" Rodriguez

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, DEA Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, and Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan announced that Reinaldo "Ronnie" **RODRIGUEZ**, 56, last known address 42 Cross Street, Nashua, was convicted today of federal cocaine distribution charges.

RODRIGUEZ entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute cocaine in Nashua on April 20 and April 30, 2004, in relation to his sale of cocaine to an undercover Nashua police detective. Judge Barbadoro set RODRIGUEZ's sentencing for June 28, 2005 at U.S. District Court in Concord.

According to an affidavit filed in support of a criminal complaint issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead on October 7, 2004, RODRIGUEZ and other individuals distributed cocaine as part of a loose organization based at the now-closed "Latino Club," a restaurant and nightclub once located at 7 Temple St. in Nashua. Depending on the quantities distributed by the various alleged co-conspirators and their respective criminal records, the defendants potentially face minimum penalties ranging from 5 to 10 years imprisonment, and maximum penalties ranging from 20 years to life imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level cocaine dealers operating in Nashua and New Hampshire's other larger cities. This office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

— M O R E —

The arrests resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Nashua Police Department's Narcotics Intelligence Division and DEA's Southern New Hampshire HIDTA Task Force. The prosecution is being handled by First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").

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